

NARCOTICS

Narcotics includes all incidents in which the police made an arrest, complaint, or warrant for the possession or distribution of illegal narcotics. Narcotics statistics do not include all instances of narcotics use or distribution; they only reflect those cases that are known to the police.

21 reported in 2002 · 26 reported in 2003

Geographic Breakdown of Drug Incidents

Neighborhood	1 st Q. 2001	1 st Q. 2002	1 st Q. 2003
East Cambridge	0	2	7
MIT	0	0	0
Inman/Harrington	4	0	3
Area 4	2	5	5
Cambridgeport	2	2	2
Mid-Cambridge	4	0	2
Riverside	1	5	1
Agassiz	0	1	0
Peabody	3	0	0
West Cambridge	1	1	1
North Cambridge	6	2	2
Cambridge Highlands	2	1	1
Strawberry Hill	0	2	2

The number of incidents involving drug sales/trafficking or possession increased in the first quarter of 2003 (26 incidents, which yielded the arrest of 32 individuals), due to the increase in arrests in East Cambridge. Three of the arrests in the East Cambridge neighborhood occurred at the Galleria Mall and were subsequent to either shoplifting or disorderly behavior.

Drug activity throughout the City continues to be suppressed due to the combined forces of citizens, patrol officers, and the Special Investigations Unit (SIU). The observations of citizens and patrol officers are valuable in the fight against the presence of narcotics in our community. The Special Investigations Unit, through surveillance and investigation, works to combat the proliferation of organized narcotic activities. At least twelve arrests can be attributed to SIU surveillance and

investigations in the first quarter of 2003. One incident resulted in the arrest of a New York man after he traveled to the City looking to sell 1600 pills of ecstasy, worth \$10,000. Another incident resulted in the arrest of a Cambridge woman who had in her possession forty-eight bags of heroin.

Sixteen of the twenty-six incidents were for possession of narcotics, seven of the incidents were for possession with intent to distribute, and the remaining three incidents involved drug trafficking. Eleven incidents involved marijuana; 7 involved heroin; 3 involved cocaine; 2 involved possession of hypodermic needles; 2 involved prescription drugs; and one involved hallucinogens.

Drug Tip Hotline

*The Special Investigations Unit employs an anonymous Drug Tip Hotline to gain intelligence information from the community. The Unit can be reached by calling **617-349-3359**. Generally, you will be greeted by a taped message instructing you to leave very detailed information. **You do not have to provide any personal information and all information is held in confidence.***

Know Your Narcotics

Note: The following information was gathered from the following sources: <http://www.drugfreeamerica.com>; [Massachusetts Drug Threat Assessment](http://www.mass.gov/dhs/03/030102a.htm), published by the National Drug Intelligence Center of the U.S. Department of Justice; <http://www.erowid.org>; <http://www.gazettenet.com/12192002/news/2941.htm>; and http://www.Townonline.com/Lincoln/news/local_regional/lin_newljdrugs12242002.htm.

Heroin (AKA: dope, smack, horse, Jude, brown sugar, junk, black tar, moo juice)

Heroin is a highly addictive drug derived from morphine, which is obtained from the opium poppy. It is a "downer" that affects the brain's pleasure systems and interferes with the ability to feel pain. Heroin can be used in many ways, depending on user preference and drug purity. Heroin is fast acting, especially when injected or smoked. Injected heroin reaches the brain in 15 to 30 seconds; smoked heroin in 7 seconds. The high from heroin is experienced as intense pleasure. Once a person begins using heroin, they quickly develop a tolerance to the drug and need more and more to get the same effects.

Epidemiologists agree that heroin is the most under-reported drug in terms of usage and that any usage statistics are unreliable. Estimates range from 428,000 past-year users (National Household Survey, 1995) to 600,000 past week heroin users (Office of National Drug Control Policy). On the other hand, some experts estimate that as many as 2 to 3 million people in the United States use heroin recreationally. In 1980 the

average bag of street heroin was 4% pure; the average bag today is 40% pure and can be as pure as 70%. Increased purity results in snorting and smoking rather than injecting. Heroin use in the state has risen sharply over the last decade, particularly among young men ages 18-24, who are buying cheaper and purer forms of the drug.

Cocaine & Crack Cocaine (AKA: coke, snow, nose candy, flake, blow, big C, lady white, snowbirds, Scar face special, (crack only) rock, freebase, Manhattan marble)

Cocaine is a drug extracted from the leaves of the coca plant. It is a potent brain stimulant and one of the most powerfully addictive drugs. Cocaine is distributed on the street in two main forms: cocaine hydrochloride is a white crystalline powder that can be snorted or dissolved in water and injected; and "crack" is cocaine hydrochloride that has been processed with ammonia or sodium bicarbonate (baking soda) and water into a freebase cocaine. These chips, chunks, or rocks can be smoked.

Cocaine may be used occasionally, daily, or in a variety of compulsive, repeated-use "binges." Regardless of how it is used, cocaine is highly addictive. Crack cocaine and injected cocaine reach the brain quickly and bring an intense and immediate high. Snorted cocaine produces a high more slowly.

Cocaine can produce a surge in energy, a feeling of intense pleasure, and increased confidence. The effects of powder cocaine last about 20 minutes, while the effects of "crack" last about 12 minutes. Heavy use of cocaine may produce hallucinations, paranoia, aggression, insomnia, and depression. Cocaine's effects are short lived, and once the drug leaves the brain, the user experiences a "coke crash" that includes depression, irritability, and fatigue; and long term effects include heart problems, respiratory problems, sleep and appetite problems, and harm to developing children if used by a pregnant woman.

Designer Drugs

Designer drugs are a class of drugs often associated with "raves." Designer drugs are modifications of restricted drugs, made by underground chemists in order to create street drugs that are not specifically listed as controlled (i.e., restricted) substances by the Drug Enforcement Administration. Changing the molecular structure of an existing drug or drugs to create a new substance, like Ecstasy, creates a designer drug. The street names of designer drugs vary according to time, place, and manufacturer. Because unlicensed and untrained amateurs create designer drugs in clandestine laboratories, they can be extremely dangerous. In many cases, the designer drugs are more dangerous and more potent than the original drug.

The pharmaceutical drug, fentanyl, was originally created for anesthesia during surgeries. Designer drugs derived from fentanyl are extremely potent and have a strong potential for overdose. They have been associated with hundreds of unintentional deaths in the United States. They are also short lived, about 30 to 90 minutes. Increasingly the drug is sniffed or smoked, in part to avoid getting HIV via infected needles. The respiratory paralysis that may occur is so sudden after drug administration that often victims who injected the drug are found with the needle still in their arm.

OxyContin

OxyContin (oxycodone HCl controlled-release) is the brand name for an opioid analgesic - a narcotic. Oxycodone is the narcotic ingredient found in Percocet (oxycodone and acetaminophen) and Percodan (oxycodone and aspirin). OxyContin is used to treat pain that is associated with arthritis, lower back conditions, injuries, and cancer. OxyContin is available by prescription only. It is approved for the treatment of moderate to severe pain that requires treatment for more than a few days.

Oxycontin abusers remove the sustained-release coating to get a rush of euphoria similar to heroin. They chew the tabs...crush them for snorting...or boil the powder for injection. The most serious risk associated with opioids, including OxyContin, is respiratory depression. Common opioid side effects are constipation, nausea, sedation, dizziness, vomiting, headache, dry mouth, sweating, and weakness. OxyContin is oxycodone in a sustained release form and that is why the tablet should not be broken. Taking broken, chewed, or crushed tablets could lead to the rapid release and absorption of a potentially toxic dose of oxycodone.

In 2001 and 2002, there was a surge in robberies of pharmacies carrying OxyContin in Massachusetts. There is so much money to make with OxyContin, that stealing and selling the drug has become irresistible to dealers and addicts who can get their hands on it. As a result, many pharmacies in the area have stopped stocking the drug in order to deter robbers.

MALICIOUS DESTRUCTION

Vandalism, or malicious destruction of property, includes tire-slashing, window-smashing, spray-painting, and myriad other crimes in which someone's property is willfully and maliciously damaged. It is the most commonly reported crime in Cambridge, yet we suspect that vandalism is one of the most underreported crimes; residents and businesses frequently ignore "minor" incidents of vandalism and graffiti

207 reported in 2002 · 210 reported in 2003

Neighborhood	1 st Q. 2001	1 st Q. 2002	1 st Q. 2003	Destruction Act	1 st Q. 2002	1 st Q. 2003
East Cambridge	26	40	39	Car Window	58	53
MIT	2	1	7	Car (Other)	48	44
Inman/Harrington	18	7	17	Graffiti	24	8
Area 4	24	23	12	Pinstriping	8	15
Cambridgeport	26	36	38	Tire Slashing	20	28
Mid-Cambridge	17	18	14	Business Window	9	15
Riverside	23	20	13	Business (Other)	11	7
Agassiz	4	2	3	Attempted Theft	13	9
Peabody	19	24	10	House Window	6	15
West Cambridge	20	9	21	Residence (Other)	9	11
North Cambridge	26	19	26	Revenge	0	6
Highlands	3	5	7	Shop Damage	1	0
Strawberry Hill	6	3	3			

There were 210 incidents of malicious destruction, or "vandalism," reported in the first quarter of 2003, which is three less incidents than reported in 2002. Area 4 and Peabody both experienced at least half of the number of reported incidents when compared to 2002. Areas including Inman/Harrington and West Cambridge experienced numbers consistent with a reversed bell shaped curve, where they reported a high number in 2001, a lower number of incidents in 2002 and spiked again in 2003. A tire-slashing spree took place in mid-January where six different cars had their tire slashed sometime overnight. Five of these cars were parked on Kelley St., and its' intersecting streets, while the remaining incident occurred in Mid-Cambridge. All but ten incidents were done to cars in East Cambridge, which is an exact replica of last year. The City, in general, has experienced a decrease in graffiti, partly due to the new graffiti hotline. This confidential hotline allows residents to report where graffiti exists, which is then forwarded to the appropriate agency or property owner for removal and to the Police Department for investigation. To report incidents like these, please call (617) 349-INFO.

FRAUD

The FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting System does not include fraud, false pretenses, forgery, embezzlement, and confidence games among larceny. Yet in many cases, fraud is a much more serious crime than theft. Victims of check forgery and "con" games stand to lose thousands of dollars. Often added to this loss is the personal humiliation that accompanies being "duped" by a "con man." The confidence game crook, a particularly crafty breed of criminal who has no qualms with deceiving his victims face-to-face, expects (often correctly) that his victim's embarrassment will deter him or her from reporting the crime to the police

116 reported in 2002 · 113 reported in 2003

In the first quarter of 2003, there were 113 incidents of fraud and forgery reported in Cambridge, compared with 116 during the first three months of 2002. Specific crimes categorized as fraud are reviewed below.

- **Counterfeiting:** During the first quarter of 2003, there was one report of counterfeiting reported in Cambridge. The incident involved a woman trying to pass a fake \$100 bill at a clothing store.
- **Application:** One incident of a forged application was reported, involving a man who successfully opened five accounts at Sears, charging a computer, a camera, and jewelry.
- **Bad Check:** The writing of checks on insufficient funds or closed accounts. The Cambridge Police took ten reports for this crime in the first quarter of 2003.
- **Forged Check:** Thirteen crimes involved the use of a lost or stolen check, with the offender forging the victim's signature. This crime is down slightly from last year.
- **ATM/Credit Card Fraud:** Fifty-six incidents of the use of a lost or stolen credit or ATM card were reported in the first quarter of 2003. This crime is becoming more popular with the proliferation of "check cards." The Galleria is a hot spot for this crime.
- **Embezzlement:** A situation in which an employee takes advantage of his position for his own financial gain, re-diverting company funds or property to himself. The sole incident reported this year involved an employee of a security company who "hired" her boyfriend. The employee's boyfriend never showed up to the job, but collected over \$100,000 in paychecks.
- **"Con" Games:** There were six swindles, con games or flim flams in the first three months of 2003, compared to three in 2002. However, half of the scams reported actually occurred in 2002.

Crime	1 st Q. 2002	2 nd Q. 2003
Counterfeiting	0	1
Forgery/Uttering	83	80
Application	0	1
Bad Check	8	10
Forged Check	19	13
ATM/Credit Card	56	56
Embezzlement	1	1
Con Games	3	6
Big Carrot	0	2
Utility Impostor	0	1
Pigeon Drop	0	1
Charity	2	0
Psychic	0	1
Miscellaneous	1	1
Identity Theft	29	25

SEX OFFENSES

Sex Offenses refers to six crimes of a sexual nature: prostitution and solicitation, indecent assault, indecent exposure, peeping and spying, annoying & accosting, and obscene telephone calls. Rape is not include because it is a Part I crime.

22 reported in 2002 · 16 reported in 2003

Annoying & Accosting

3 reported in 2002 · 6 reported in 2003

"Annoying and Accosting a Member of the Opposite Sex" is a form of criminal harassment. Generally, it involves a man repeatedly following, shouting, making off-color suggestions, hooting, repeatedly asking for a date, or otherwise harassing a woman. It happens most often on the street and in the workplace. Each report involves an individual situation; the crime is not subject to geographic patterns. Six incidents have been reported during the first quarter. Two incidents involved ex-romantic partners who showed up at the victims' residences or places of work, whereas a third involved an acquaintance who left items at the victim's doorstep with the intention of starting a romantic relationship. Two incidents were stranger incidents, where the suspects approached the victims, making lewd statements and suggestions.

Indecent Assault

2 reported in 2002 · 2 reported in 2003

Indecent assault is the unwanted touching of a person by another in a private area or with sexual overtones. In most cases the victim knows the offender. Any incident where force or injury occurs would be considered an aggravated assault rather than an indecent assault. In the first three months, two incidents were reported where the victims knew the perpetrators. Both victims were juveniles as was one of the perpetrators, a relative. In the second incident, the perpetrator was an older acquaintance of the victim's family.

Peeping & Spying

5 reported in 2002 · 2 reported in 2003

Peeping and spying occurs most often when offenders will peer through windows of houses or apartments, generally at night. Two incidents were reported during the first three months of 2003. The incidents were unrelated in nature, occurring in January and March. In late January, a male suspect was observed looking into the female victim's house. During the March incident, the victim was unable to see the perpetrator, but observed a flashlight being shone their residence.

Prostitution & Soliciting Sex for a Fee

4 reported in 2002 · 0 reported in 2003

Prostitution is commonly associated with "streetwalking," (prostitutes working the streets) but is also escort services, where a "john" (prostitutes' clients) will call and a prostitute will be sent to the "john's" location. No prostitution arrests have been recorded in the first quarter of 2003. In the nineties, the Special Investigations Unit proactively fought the visible "streetwalking" problem, nearly eradicating this problem in Cambridge.

Indecent Exposure

3 reported in 2002 · 1 reported in 2003

This crime is described as a crime in which the main offenders are vagrants or those who are inebriated and relieve themselves. There has been a large decrease in this type of crime. So far this year, one incident is reported where an elderly male exposed himself to a female in early February.

Crime	2002	2003
Prostitution & Solicitation	4	0
Indecent Assault	2	2
Indecent Exposure	3	1
Peeping & Spying	5	2
Annoying & Accosting	3	6
Obscene Phone Calls	5	5

OTHER PART II CRIMES

Under the Uniform Crime Reporting Program, any actual crime not recorded as a Part I Crime (Murder, Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Larceny and Auto Theft) is a Part II Crime. The relative infrequency of patterns and trends among these crimes discourages detailed analysis.

360 reported in 2002 · 348 reported in 2003

Crime	1st Qtr.2002	1 st Qtr.2003
Disorderly Conduct	8	9
Drinking in Public	7	9
Extortion/Blackmail	0	0
Hit & Run Accidents	183	198
Kidnapping	3	1
Liquor Violations	0	0
OUI	9	10
Threatening	74	65
Traffic Arrests	64	36
Trespassing	11	16
Weapons Violations	1	4

Disorderly Conduct

Police make an arrest for this crime when a person disrupts the peace enough to pose a danger. Examples include bar disputes, homeless altercations, and public shouting of profanity and threats. All nine of the Disorderly incidents in 2003 resulted in arrests. Eight of the nine arrests were on weekend nights.

Drinking in Public

Seventy-eight percent of drinking in public incidents occurred in Central Square. Other locations where this activity is monitored include: Harvard, Inman, and the Porter Square T-area. These areas are targeted due to the nightlife they attract.

Extortion/Blackmail

A rare crime, involving offender-taking money from a victim by threatening to do something other than use violence. Fortunately there have been no cases of extortion/blackmail in the first quarter of 2003.

Hit and Run Accidents

In the first quarter of 2003 there was an 8% increase in hit and run incidents as compared to the first quarter of 2002. The majority of incidents have involved parked cars being hit by unknown suspects. Four incidents involved pedestrians being struck.

Kidnapping

There was one kidnapping reported in Cambridge during the first quarter of 2003. A Cambridgeport resident was abducted on the street near her residence. The victim was acquainted with the kidnapper. The case is still under investigation. There were three incidents reported in the first quarter of 2002.

Liquor Violations

Liquor violations generally involve minors drinking, though it can also include the sale of liquor to a minor, or the unlicensed sale of liquor. There have been no liquor violations during the first quarter of 2003.

Operating Under the Influence (OUI)

Out of the 10 OUI arrests that took place during the first quarter of 2003, 7 occurred during the hours of 10pm to 4am. Special attention is given to Harvard, Porter and Central Squares during these high activity hours.

Threatening

A self-explanatory crime that often arises in domestic disputes, arguments between acquaintances and co-workers, school fights, and in other environments.

Traffic Arrests

The average traffic stop for speeding, running a red light, or related offenses results in only a warning or citation. Some traffic offenses, however, are arrestable crimes: driving to endanger, driving after suspension or revocation, possession of a counterfeit inspection sticker, and attaching false license plates are all examples. Such arrests are often made during routine traffic stops, after the police officer learns of the driver's suspension or revocation. Traffic arrests decreased dramatically over the first quarter of 2003 when compared with the first three months of 2002.

Trespassing

Arrests for trespassing are generally made at establishments where the offender has been previously warned not to tread. Often, the same offender is arrested multiple times. Two of the 11 trespassing incidents that occurred during the first quarter of 2003 were at Harvard University and three were for violations at MIT properties.

Weapons Violations

There were four weapons violations recorded during the first quarter of 2003. An unexploded Japanese grenade was discovered in the basement of a Peabody neighborhood apartment. The bomb squad disposed of the weapon. The other three incidents involved arrested persons in possession of concealed weapons.

